AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in above-identified patent application as follows and as shown on the Claims Listing appended hereto.

Please withdraw claims 53-69 from examination and prosecution, they belonging to a non-elected claims group.

Please amend claims 44, 45, 49, and 51 as follows:

44. A method for ~~the~~ multiepitope detection of an ~~a homogeneous or heterogeneous~~ analyte ~~population~~ in a sample, the analyte comprising at least two epitopes, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a solid phase comprising a non-porous support, ~~and~~ a first and a second ~~at least two~~ spatially separate test areas , and a first and a second receptor, ~~each test area comprising a~~ the first and second receptors ~~capable of~~ binding specifically with said analyte but to different epitopes of the analyte, ~~said~~ the first receptors ~~being~~ bound directly or indirectly to the ~~non-porous support~~ first test area and the second receptor bound directly or indirectly to the second test area, there being no more than one analyte-specific receptor bound per test area ~~and, in the case of a heterogeneous analyte, binding to a partial population of the analyte, and in the case of a homogeneous analyte, binding to different epitopes of the analyte~~,

(b) contacting the sample with the solid phase and with a detection reagent comprising a third receptor that binds ~~capable of binding~~ with the analyte and that is bound ~~or capable of being bound~~ to a signal generating group, and

(c) determining ~~the~~ presence or amount of the signal generating group bound to the test areas via the analyte as a measure of the analyte in said sample.

45. The method of claim 44 wherein the analyte is selected from the group consisting of HIV I, HIV II, HBV, and HCV antibodies and HIV antigens ~~a homogeneous antigen or antibody population, a heterogeneous antibody population, an antigen mixture and a mixture of antigens and antibodies~~.

49. A solid phase for ~~the~~ multiepitope detection of an ~~a homogeneous or heterogeneous~~ analyte ~~population~~ in a sample, the analyte comprising at least two epitopes, the solid phase comprising a non-porous support, a first and a second ~~and at least two~~ spatially separate test areas, ~~each test area comprising a~~ and a first and a second receptor, the receptors ~~capable of~~ binding specifically to the analyte but to different epitopes of the analyte, ~~said~~ the first receptors ~~being~~ bound directly or indirectly to the first test area and the second receptor bound directly or indirectly to the second test area, there being no more than one analyte-specific receptor bound per test area ~~non-porous support and, in the case of a heterogeneous analyte, binding to a partial population of the analyte, and in the case of a homogeneous analyte, binding to different epitopes of the analyte~~.

51. A test kit for ~~the~~ multiepitope detection of an analyte in a sample, the analyte comprising at least two epitopes, the test kit comprising ~~the~~ a solid phase ~~of~~ according to claim 49 and a detection reagent comprising a third receptor ~~capable of binding~~ that binds with the analyte and that is bound ~~or capable of being bound~~ to a signal generating group.